Fantastic Error Charged

OTTAWA (CP) — Progressive Conservative Richard A. Bell Thursday charged the former Liberal government kept Parliament in the dark about "fantastic miscalculations" in the cost of one phase of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Mr. Bell said in the Commons that the construction cost of the Welland Canal section of the seaway originally was estimated in June, 1949, by the former Liberal government at $1,157,000.

But the eight contracts awarded to date for the deepening and widening of the canal to seaway requirements totalled $22,343,290 and the present estimate of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority was $25,655,775 for this work.

Snowslide Victim Borne Away

Body of one of five who died in a snowslide in St. John's, Nfld., is carried to city morgue by volunteers. Slide crushed three houses, burying their occupants. State of emergency still exists in the city with streets blocked by huge snowdrifts.

Limp Balloons Theirs But Granby Warned

Granby, P.Q., is having its centennial celebrations this year, and to decorate their city, the people of Granby have purchased Victoria's infamous "flat-tire" balloons.

But don't say we didn't warn you, Granby, if you get all out of puff trying to keep them flying high.

"We told them all about our troubles with them," Ald. Geoffrey Edgelow, chairman of the Greater Victoria centennial committee, said last night.

Ald. Edgelow did not disclose the price, which covered the outside balloons only. But there was "no loss," he said.

"Granby's going to buy its own bladders and they're the things that gave us all the trouble."

Victoria's special conditions may have had a bearing on the balloons' limp performance here last year, said Mr. Edgelow.

"Whether it's the sunlight here or not, I don't know, but this atmosphere's sure hard on things."

Mr. Edgelow said the deal didn't include about $1,800 worth of nylon rope which is still here.

So now Granby can take a deep breath and keep its fingers crossed.

If that fails, they might have a use for the rope.

In the Legislature

Another Disagrees

Donald Robinson (SC, Lillooet) last night became the third MLA on the government side to dissociate himself from remarks made against labor by Highways Minister Gaglardi and Public Works Minister W. N. Chant.

"I take the position that any remarks made here are made by the member himself and certainly hope that some of these derogatory statements do not find support from the government," he said.

He suggested members not make statements they would not be prepared to make outside the legislative chamber and that they should not make statements regardless of where they are unless they know what they are talking about.

* * *

A Social Credit backbencher last night pleaded with Opposition Leader Robert Strachan and CCF MLAs to reject a policy of political checkoffs in labor unions.

"The advocation of a new labor party with the implementation of the checkoff is something we want to give serious consideration," said Donald Robinson (SC, Lillooet).

He said the political checkoff permits a company to draw a predetermined amount of money from the workers' earnings which is turned over to the union for its use and which is used for political purposes.

* * *

Recreation Minister Earle Westwood last night praised public-spirited citizens who have donated camp and picnic sites.

He said the B.C. Cement Company has given a foreshore area near Bamberton and Mrs. W. Woodward, Sydney Pickles and M. Montford had given portions of their properties for the expansion of John Dean Park on Mount Newton.

* * *

Public access is one of the major problems facing the fish and game branch Mr. Westwood said.

He said that in the Nanaimo area there are 40 lakes, and none can be fished without trespassing on private land.

* * *

British Columbia this summer will distribute litter bags to campers and highway users, Mr. Westwood said.

* * *

People don't seem to realize the Assessment Equalization Act only deals with assessment, Municipal Affairs Minister Wesley Black said.

The act makes certain that everyone no matter where he lives will pay an equitable proportion of school taxes in relation to the value of his property.

"Some people are arguing that no consideration has been given to depreciation," he said. "I submit that the reason this appears to be the case is that all properties including the improvements on them, whether the improvements are new or old, are tending to appreciate in value."

Short End For Schools

OTTAWA (UPI) — The average Canadian apparently spends more on liquor and cigarets than on education.

Trade Minister Churchill said Thursday that in 1957 the per capita expenditure on education was $56.66. By comparison a per capita total of $79.69 was spent on liquor and cigarets.

Long, Hard Argument In Way of 'New Vista'

The Union of B.C. Municipalities will have to argue long and hard to win over the provincial government to its proposed "new vista" division of responsibilities and costs between the provincial and municipal governments.

Provincial Secretary Wesley Black indicated in the legislature yesterday the government isn't prepared, at this stage anyway, to support the proposal that municipalities give up their provincial grants in exchange for government payment of full education and social services costs.

Touring Players Sparkle

By BERT BINNY

VANCOUVER—Better than halfway through a gruelling cross-Canada tour but still full of sparkle, the Canadian Players presented Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion" to a good audience at the Georgia Auditorium here last night.

It will be shown at the Royal Theatre in Victoria at 8.30 p.m. Saturday.

There was some thoroughly delightful playing, both in the lead and support parts. Bill Glover as Prof. Higgins was excellent and it is hard to imagine better jobs of the parts of Col. Pickering, Mrs. Pearce and Alfred Doolittle than those turned in by Mervyn Blake, Christine Bennett and Alan Nunn.

The two first-act bystanders, John Horton and Jeremy Wilkin, illustrated clearly how great a contribution can be made even in small parts.

The lead part of Eliza was carried by Paddy Croft, but it was not played up to the high standard achieved by the other lead players.

She did not appeal as Shaw's cockney flower girl, but later, as the lady, she was far more convincing.

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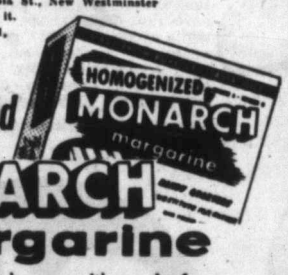

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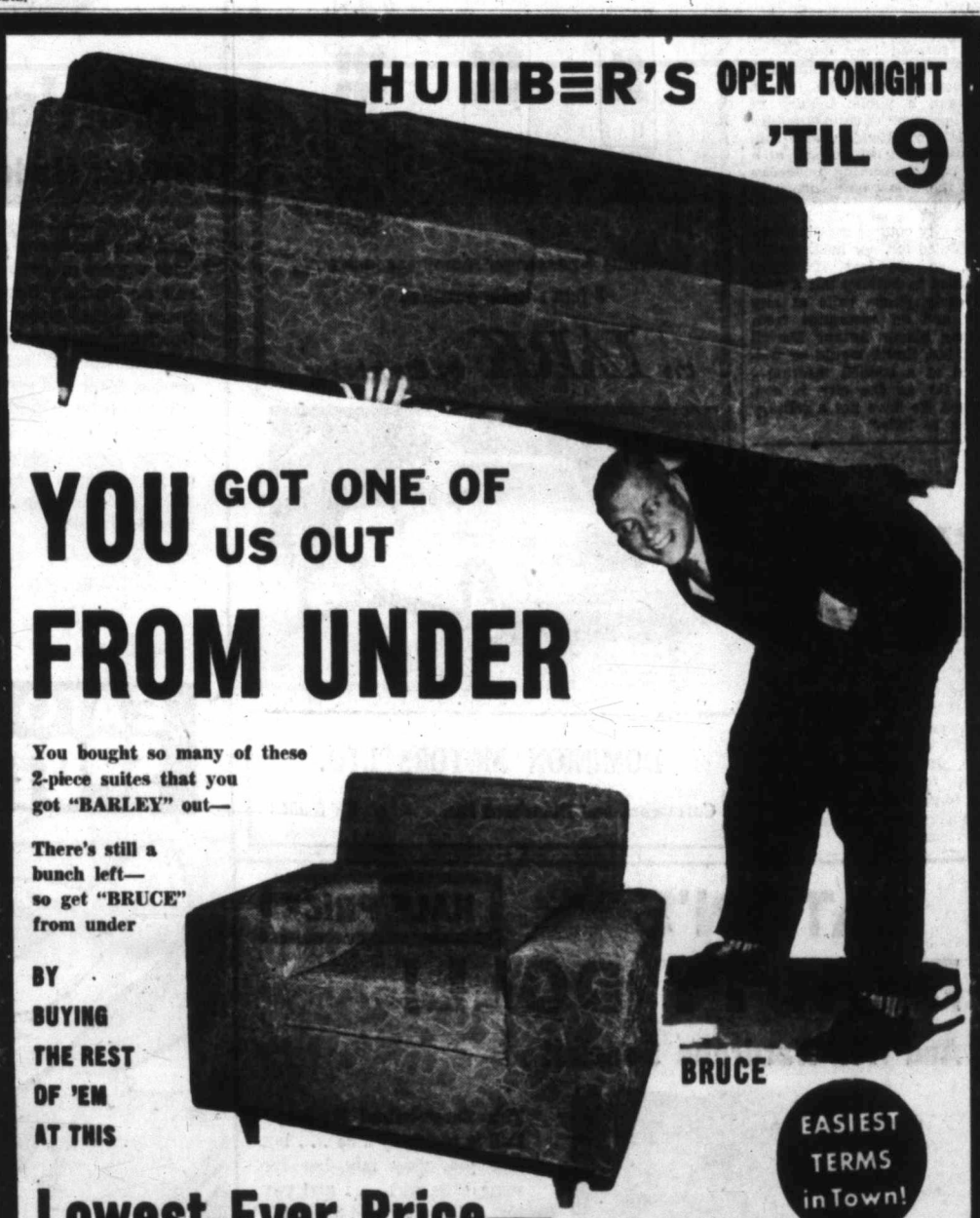

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